



SUPPORT CHILDREN & YOUTH IN LOUISIANA BY:

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH BEHIND CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse in America is a problem that serves as a gateway to physical and emotional difficulties later in life. We must finance and promote programs to support the victims and stop the abuser. Proper financing must be supported to end the problem of child abuse in our SWLA communities.

THE CURRENT PICTURE...

- According to Childhelp, close to 5 children die every day as a result of child abuse in the United States.
- Childhelp states that every year, 3 million reports of child abuse are made nationwide.
- In Southwest Louisiana, Erika Simon, Senior Coordinator of the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) at Family and Youth Counseling Agency in Lake Charles, Louisiana stated, "in 2014, the CAC served 526 children alleged to have been physically and sexually abused or witnessed crime against their care takers."
- Erika Simon added, "Child abuse is more common within 2 to 12 years in age based on the Children's Advocacy City statistics collected in Southwest Louisiana."
- According to Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana, about 10,000 kids in the state were victims of child abuse and neglect in 2014.
- Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana stated that 31 children died last year in Louisiana from abuse and neglect.

AS YOUNG PEOPLE OUR HUMBLE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE...

- Promote and finance awareness campaigns for prevention and intervention programs such as, CAC (Children's Advocacy Center), and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) in Louisiana.
- Support schools (particularly elementary schools) to train their faculty and teachers to know how to identify the signs and symptoms of child abuse.
- Support schools and add counselors on staff at schools to support the emotional and physical needs of students.
- Support programs that engage high school students in mentoring younger children.